

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A water purifying apparatus, comprising:

a tubular portion having an inlet for receiving water and an outlet for emitting the water,

and

a nozzle portion disposed inside said tubular portion to allow the water flowing through said tubular portion to pass therethrough,

wherein said nozzle portion has a nozzle opening for discharging the water toward said outlet,

said tubular portion is provided with air supply means for mixing air taken in from outside said tubular portion with the water discharged from said nozzle opening, and

said nozzle opening has a shape defined by ~~not less than~~ at least two line segments elongated slots disposed in parallel.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A water purifying apparatus, comprising:

a tubular portion having an inlet for receiving water and an outlet for emitting the water,

and

a nozzle portion disposed inside said tubular portion to allow the water flowing through said tubular portion to pass therethrough,

wherein said nozzle portion has a nozzle opening for discharging the water toward said outlet,

said tubular portion is provided with an air supply for mixing air taken in from outside said tubular portion with the water discharged from said nozzle opening,

said nozzle opening has a shape defined by ~~not less than~~ at least two line segments elongated slots, and

said air supply has an air outlet closely facing each said ~~line segment~~ elongated slot constituting said nozzle opening.

5. (Currently amended) The water purifying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said air outlet perpendicularly faces each said ~~line segment~~ elongated slot constituting said nozzle opening.

6. (Currently amended) The water purifying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each side of each said ~~line segment~~ elongated slot of said nozzle opening has a closely facing air outlet.

7. (Currently amended) The water purifying apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the air outlet comprises ~~a plurality of air outlets in pairs~~ at least two pairs of openings, and each pair of ~~air outlets~~ openings is positioned to be opposing on opposite sides of ~~a line segment~~ an elongated slot of said nozzle opening.

8. (Previously presented) The water purifying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the air supply contains more than two air outlets.